

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 130217Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8739
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10673

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, CH, US, JA
SUBJECT: LDP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN NAKASONE'S VIEWS
ON JAPAN-CHINA PFT

REF: TOKYO 6361

1. IN MEETING WITH EMBOFFS JUNE 12, LDP EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN NAKASONE RAISED USG ATTITUDES TOWARDS
SINO-JAPANESE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT). HE SAID
THAT JAPANESE ADVOCATES OF RAPID CONCLUSION OF PFT HAVE
BEEN CLAIMING EVER SINCE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S VISIT
TO WASHINGTON THAT USG FAVORED PFT AND HAD URGED JAPAN
TO SIGN IT AS CONTRIBUTION TO ASIAN STABILITY. NAKASONE
ALSO SAID THAT IN EYES OF SOME (HE PRESUMABLY INCLUDED
HIMSELF), THIS ARGUMENTATION MADE IT APPEAR THAT U.S.
WAS USING JAPAN AS PAWN IN A STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN CHINA
AS COUNTERWEIGHT TO SOVIETS IN ASIA. NAKASONE ADDED THAT
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HE WAS CERTAIN THIS WAS NOT MOTIVATION OF USG OFFICIALS
IN DISCUSSING PFT WITH JAPANESE, BUT RATHER THAT JAPANESE
POLITICIANS AND MEDIA WERE UTILIZING THESE CONVERSATIONS
FOR THEIR OWN DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES.

2. EMBOFFS ASSURED NAKASONE THAT WHILE USG BELIEVED GOOD
RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND PRC WOULD INDEED CONTRIBUTE

TO NORTHEAST ASIAN STABILITY, WE REGARDED CONTENT AND
TIMING OF PFT AS STRICTLY BILATERAL MATTER BETWEEN JAPAN
AND CHINA.

3. COMMENT: NAKASONE IS ONE OF FEW TOP LDP POLITICIANS TO
BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL HAY CAN BE REAPED FROM A RELATIVELY
CAUTIOUS AND CONDITIONAL APPROACH TO PFT (REFTEL). THERE-
FORE, THERE IS A SELF-SERVING ELEMENT IN HIS "FRIENDLY
WARNING" THAT JAPANESE POLITICIANS TAKING THE OPPOSITE
APPROACH TO PFT WERE APPARENTLY MISREPRESENTING U.S. VIEWS.
NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF SPECULATION HERE THAT U.S. IS IN
PROCESS OF ADOPTING NEW APPROACH TO CHINA TO COUNTER SOVIET
INFLUENCE, HIS WARNING IS REMINDER OF HOW EASILY ANY
EXPRESSION OF USG OPINION ON DELICATE DOMESTIC POLITICAL
ISSUE HERE CAN BE SUBJECT TO EXAGGERATION AND MISINTER-
PRETATION. MANSFIELD

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